



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Nashville Field Division

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## **COLUMBIA MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING HOMEMADE BOMB** *Case involved bomb that was brought into local jail*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Johnny Lee Amos, 43, of Columbia, Tennessee was sentenced on July 20, 2005 to 10 years in federal prison for unlawfully possessing a destructive device, to wit a homemade bomb in violation of Title 26 of the U.S. Code, Section 5861(d). Senior U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Higgins for the Middle Judicial District of Tennessee also placed Amos on three years of supervised release following his prison term.

U.S. Attorney James K. Vines, Sheriff Enoch George of the Maury County Sheriff's Department and Special Agent in Charge James M. Cavanaugh of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced the Amos sentencing. There is no parole in the federal prison system.

According to facts introduced at a plea hearing in May of 2005, Amos was arrested on August 27, 2002, on burglary charges. While being booked into the jail, Amos admitted that he had a bomb inside of a duffle bag. After the device was identified, the jail was evacuated. Amos admitted that he had made the explosive device to trade for some crack cocaine. Further investigation revealed that the device was packed with ammunition as shrapnel.

"Amos admitted his bomb was something he intended to trade to get crack cocaine. This case makes it clear that a junkie will do just about anything to get high. The bomb inside of the jail put everyone at risk of death. Illegal bomb makers like Amos will not be tolerated. After a decade in federal prison, Amos will surely understand that explosives and drugs are not a good combination" said Cavanaugh.

The successful resolution of the case is the result of investigative efforts of the Maury County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Attorney's Office and ATF under a violent crime reduction initiative known as Project Safe Neighborhoods, known locally as H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Armed Thugs).

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